

THE SMITHY, 55 Pioneer Street  
Cooperstown, Otsego Township  
Otsego County, New York

HABS No. NY 258

HABS  
NY,  
39-COOP,  
10-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction  
120 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

THE SMITHY

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Street Address: 55 Pioneer Street, Cooperstown, Otsego Township  
Otsego County, New York

Present Owner: Dr. Henry F. Cooper, New York and Cooperstown, N. Y.

Present Use: Main floor being used as an Art Gallery

Brief Statement of Significance: The lower portion of this building, erected in 1786, is the oldest structure in town, and the property is still in the possession of descendants of the original owner.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: William Cooper. Property has never been out of the Cooper family.
2. Date of erection: 1786
3. Notes on alterations and additions: Outside staircase leading from the alley on the south side to the hall on the third floor was removed.
4. Important old views and references: Local History File in New York State Historical Association at Cooperstown, New York. Photographs - 2 old exterior views.

Prepared by F. Ward - October 1958

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: A queer, composite structure; lower part of the building is oldest in town.
2. Condition of fabric: Good

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Foundations: The ground floor walls, which form the foundation, are stone and are very heavy and exceedingly roughly laid.
2. Wall construction: Stone, brick and wood. (Just east of the second forge the masonry changes, the timbering is white oak, the north side is brick. There is a third forge back of the second, said to have been used for shoeing oxen.)

3. Chimneys: Three
4. Windows and shutters: The large windows have twenty-four panes of glass.
5. Roof: Gable

C. Technical Description of Interiors:

1. Floor plans: Three and one-half stories. The main floor was used as a wagon shop; the third floor was a great hall. The main floor now (1958) is being used as an Art Gallery.
2. Flooring: The smithy was built before the land was cleared; in front of each of the forges is the stump of a growing pine tree squared and sawed off and used to support an anvil. A new concrete floor has been laid.
3. Doorways and doors: Original doors
4. Hardware: All the old doors are in use with their hardware.
5. Lighting: Electricity
6. Heating (fireplaces, stoves, central): None

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: Located on the east side of Pioneer Street (a village street). The entrance to the building faces west.
2. Outbuildings: None

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